

Appln. No. 10/823,016
Reply to Office Action of Sep. 20, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 3. Fig. 1 has been amended to include a --Prior Art-- designation. Fig. 3 has been amended to identify the convergent/divergent channel as item 26. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 10 stand rejected, and the Examiner has acknowledged that claim 9 is directed to allowable subject matter. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, and 5 are amended, claims 3 and 9 are canceled, and claims 11-20 are newly added, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-20 pending in the present application. The specification and drawings have also been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is amended to include the legend --Prior Art--, and Figure 3 is amended to indicate as item 26 the converging/diverging channel, which is shown in the as-filed drawings. No new matter has been added.

In the specification, the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 31 is amended to change the term "moving blade" to "stationary blade" to correct the editorial error identified by the Examiner. A new paragraph is added after the paragraph ending on page 4, line 3. This new paragraph recites the language found in the as-filed "Summary of the Invention" at page 1, line 31 to page 2, line 2, and includes item numbering for the nozzles 24 and channels 26, which are depicted in Figure 3. The paragraphs beginning on page 5 lines 4 and 6 are amended to include item numbering for the nozzle 24, which is depicted in Figure 3. No new matter has been added.

In the claims, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 9. Claim 1 has also been amended to change the phrase "a high-pressure module *consisting of* a single stage of blades" to "a high-pressure module *including* a single stage of blades". It will be appreciated that the term *consisting of* is inappropriate here because the high-pressure module includes features in addition to the single stage of blades (e.g., a one-piece nozzle and a single steam adjustment valve). No new matter has been added.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the "one-piece nozzle includes a channel that converges and then diverges in the direction from the inlet to the outlet thereof". Support for this amendment is found in the as-filed specification and drawings (e.g., page 1, line 31 to page 2, line 2 and Figure 3). Claim 5 is amended to reflect the changes made to claim 4. No new matter has been added.

New claims 11-20 are directed to the subject matter of original claims 1-10. No new matter has been added.

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1. Drawings

Figure 1 is objected to as lacking a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. In amended Figure 1, the legend --Prior Art-- has been added. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. More specifically, it is alleged that a high pressure module embodying "the shape of a converging-diverging nozzle", as recited in claim 4, and a single stage of blades embodying "a profile that includes channels that converge and then diverge in the direction from the inlet to the outlet thereof", as recited in claim 3, must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. Claim 3 has been canceled, and claim 4 has been amended to recite that the "one-piece nozzle includes a channel that converges and then diverges in the direction from the inlet to the outlet thereof". Figure 3 is amended to indicate as item 26 the converging/diverging channel, which is shown in the as-filed drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

2. Specification

The disclosure is objected to because page 1, line 31 to page 2, line 4 discusses the features of the stationary blades, while on line 2 of page 4 the term "moving blade" is used. As suggested by the Examiner, this editorial error has been corrected by changing the term "moving blade" to "stationary blade". Furthermore, the Examiner indicates that claim 3 recites the single stage of blades of the high pressure module "embody a profile that includes channels that converge and then diverge in the direction from the inlet to the outlet thereof." Claim 3 has been canceled, and claim 4 has been amended to indicate that the stationary blade (nozzle) includes the converging/diverging nozzles. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis for the limitation that the single stages of blades of the high-pressure module embody a profile that includes channels that converge and then diverge. Claim 3 has been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

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4. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (US 5,274,997) in view of Hoffman (US 3,185,854). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable over Inoue et al. and Hoffman. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Theis, Jr. (US 4,150,918). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable over AAPA and Theis, Jr. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

5. Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-20 patentably define over the prior art of record and are allowable. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early action toward that end is respectfully requested.

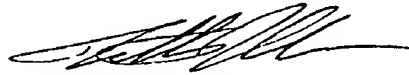
It is believed that the foregoing remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

A petition for a one (1) month extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is filed concurrently herewith to extend the period of time for responding to the Office Action dated September 20, 2005 from December 20, 2005 to January 20, 2006, whereby this Amendment will be deemed to have been timely filed.

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The Examiner is hereby authorized to apply any credits or charge any deficiencies related to this Amendment and associated one-month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 03-2578.

Respectfully submitted,

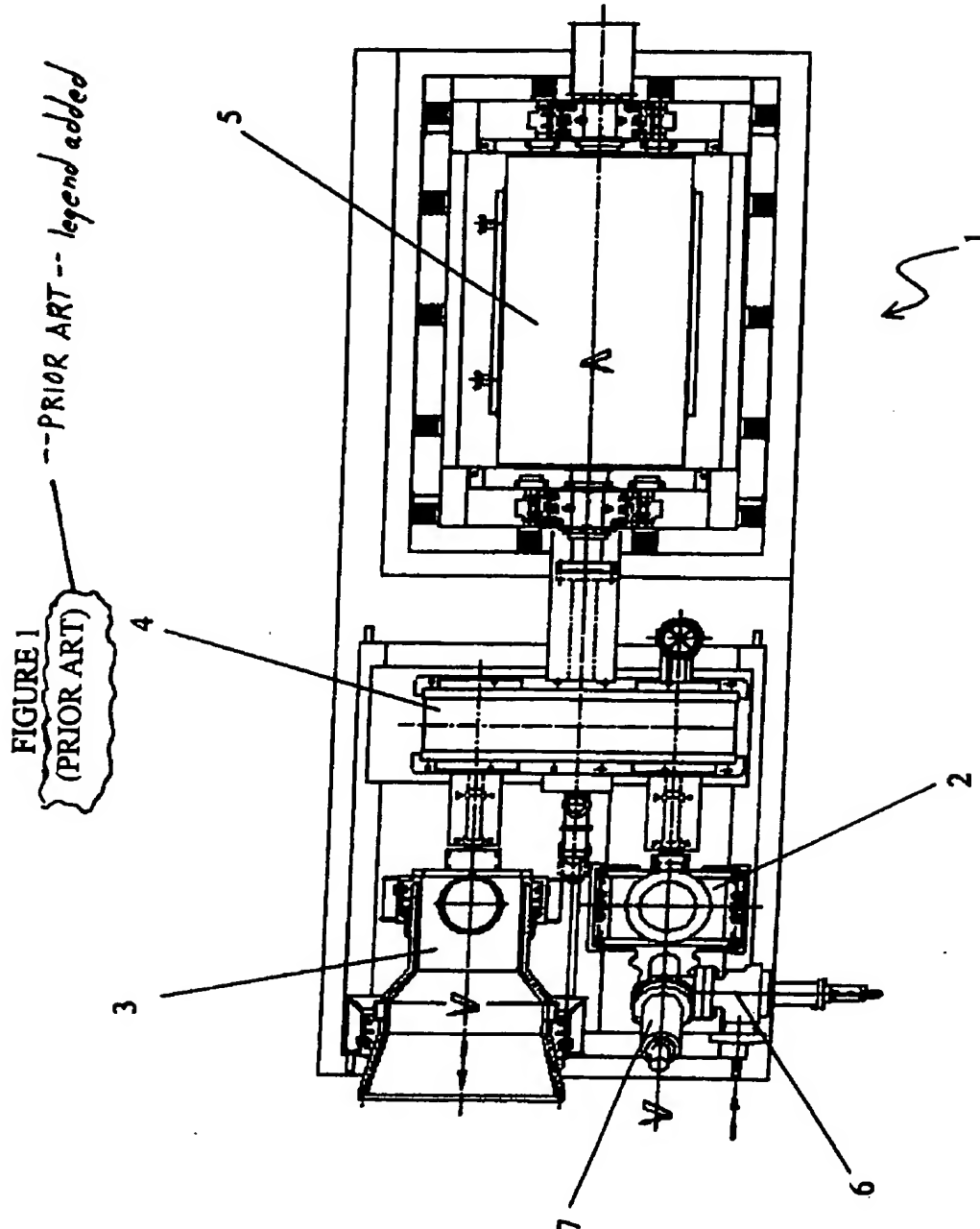


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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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FIGURE 3

